

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE  
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Moscow, Idaho  
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August 14, 1990

Ms. Ruth M. Monahan  
District Ranger  
Krassel Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1026  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ruth:

I received your letter of July 18, 1990 inquiring about the studies being carried out in the vicinity of our Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. We have several studies, but it may take some time to pull together summaries of each since we are in a transition in our Wilderness Research Program and at the field station. Jim Fazio, acting director of the Wilderness Research Center has just begun a three-year assignment with the Arbor Day Foundation. Jim and Holly Akenson, who have been resident managers of the field station for nearly eight years, left at the end of July. We have redefined the position they held to that of resident scientist/manager. The position will now be filled by Dr. Jeff Yeo, currently a research associate in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in our college. Jeff is very active in studies of wolf habitat assessment in central Idaho wilderness areas and, in fact, must complete some of that work before he will be able to report full time to Taylor Ranch. We hope Jeff will be in residence by late August and in the meantime we will continue to have someone at the field station. Dr. Yeo is an outstanding young scientist in addition to having been raised on a ranch and involved in wilderness research for much of the past decade.

Along with the selection of Dr. Yeo in a redefined position of scientist/manager, we are trying to strengthen research at the field station and we look forward to cooperating fully and keeping you informed. My "top of the head" knowledge of current studies that are underway is as follows (there may be more): habitat assessment by Dr. Jim Peek based on remeasurement of exclosures in Big Creek and the surrounding wilderness; potential wolf habitat assessment by Dr. Jeff Yeo; mountain sheep lamb survival by Holly Akenson under supervision of Dr. Ernest Ables; environmental monitoring and assessment in fragmented communities in the Big Creek Drainage by Dr. Oz Garton and Dr. Greg Hayward; a history of the Taylor Ranch and Big Creek vicinity by Jim Akenson; stream ecology studies by a professor from Idaho State University. I will ask Jeff to develop a complete list when he gets settled in the job.

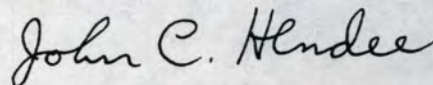
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I'm sending you a copy of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station plan, a brochure about the ranch and articles from the magazine *Idaho the University*. The wilderness field station operates as part of the Wilderness Research Center under auspices of the Idaho Forest Wildlife and Range Experiment Station which houses the research program in the college. We appreciate the recent cooperation by the Forest Service in moving the Lanham Cabin to the Taylor Ranch site to become a wilderness research laboratory. The dedicated efforts of Patty Steiger in attempting to minimize the impacts on the wilderness environment of that operation were noteworthy and especially appreciated. We look forward to working with you in developing a suitable interpretation of the evolution of this structure from wilderness dude ranch to wilderness research laboratory. We believe that Taylor Ranch represents a world class opportunity for wilderness research and we will focus more energy on developing that potential. However, I want to assure you that we also want to respect the spirit of wilderness and wilderness management at the ranch and in carrying out our research program.

I hope the enclosed information will be useful and I look forward to discussing our wilderness research program with you at some future opportunity. Please call on me if I can provide additional information. We will have more details this fall.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee  
Dean

Enc.  
JCH/mp

cc: Sonny LaSalle, Payette Forest Supervisor  
Dr. Leon Neuenschwander, Associate Dean for Research  
Dr. Jeff Yeo, Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station scientist/manager